

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KUWAIT 02888 141247Z
ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 ACDA-12 SSM-05 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-20 HA-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00
/125 W

-----101277 141259Z /41

P R 141206Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0961
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

UNCLAS KUWAIT 2888

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINS, PERP, PLO, LE, XF
SUBJ: ARAFAT IN KUWAIT

1. PLO CHIEF ARAFAT SPENT PARTS OF MAY 12-13 IN KUWAIT, CALLING
ON THE AMIR AND DEPUTY PRIMIN/FONMIN AND ATTENDING A LOCAL PLO-
SPONSORED RECEPTION WHERE HE MADE A SPEECH AND ANSWERED PRESS
QUERIES. ARAFAT'S REMARKS ON ARRIVAL EMPHASIZED THE NEED FOR
ARAB GOVERNMENTS TO ADHERE TO THE RABAT SUMMIT DECISIONS
REGARDING PALESTINIANS, IN RESPONSE TO A QUERY ABOUT HIS REACTION
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TO SADAT'S REPORTED PROPOSAL THAT ISRAEL TURN OVER FOR NOW THE
WEST BANK AND GAZA TO JORDAN AND EGYPT. THE KUWAIT PRESS
INTERPRETED ARAFAT'S REMARKS AS A REJECTION OF SADAT'S IDEA.

2. DURING A SPEECH DELIVERED MAY 13 AT PLO HEADQUARTERS IN
KUWAIT, ARAFAT REPORTEDLY MADE THE FOLLOWING POINTS:
A. FATAH IS UNITED.

B. THE US PLANS TO "LIQUIDATE THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE" AND DESTROY THE PLO. THE INVASION OF SOUTH LEBANON AND THE WHITE HOUSE ISRAELI 30TH BIRTHDAY PARTY FOR "1,200 ZIONIST RABBIS" ARE INDICATIONS THAT THIS PLAN EXISTS.

C. THE "SOCIALIST POWERS" DESERVE THANKS FOR THEIR SUPPORT OF PALESTINIANS--THERE WERE A NUMBER OF COMMUNIST COUNTRY DIPLOMATS WITNESSING THIS SPEECH.

3. DURING A MAY 13 PRESS INTERVIEW BY THE KUWAIT NEWS AGENCY, ARAFAT NOTED THAT HE HAD REJECTED FRENCH INVOLVEMENT IN 1975-76 LEBANESE CIVIL WAR BUT NOW IS WILLING TO COOPERATE WITH FRENCH AS PART OF UNIFIL, AS LONG AS UNIFIL DOES NOT GO BEYOND ITS MISSION -- "TO SUPERVISE COMPLETE ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM SOUTH LEBANON."

B. HE SPOKE IN A MATTER OF FACT WAY ABOUT PRES. SARKIS AND SYRIANS, NEITHER COMPLIMENTING NOR ATTACKING. HE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT HE "RESPECTED" EX-PRESIDENT FRANJIYEH, DESPITE THEIR DIFFERENCES, BECAUSE FRANJIYEH NEVER "EXTENDED A HAND" TO ISRAEL.

C. ARAFAT NOTED THAT HE HAD RECENTLY ORDERD THE ARREST OF 140 PEOPLE IN LEBANON WHO WERE "SENT TO SENSITIVE AREAS WITHOUT MY KNOWLEDGE," SOME 15 OF WHICH HAVE SINCE ADMITTED THEY CAME TO "ASSASSINATE" PALESTINIANS.

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